



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

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Claim 9 (previously presented): A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

receiving at the reconciling node via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the content requesting node;

receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated from a content managing node in response to supplying by the content managing node information to validate the request, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and
transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier, transmitting being in response to comparing.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein receiving the first report comprises:

receiving via the network a plurality of records; and
determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

receiving at the reconciling node via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value, each transaction being conducted in response to a respective request originated by the content requesting node;

receiving at the reconciling node via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node in response to supplying by the content managing node information to validate the respective request, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

identifying at the reconciling node a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

comparing at the reconciling node the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report; and

transmitting at the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein each tracking value comprises an address of the content requesting node.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely received.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not originated in a predetermined sequence.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 15 wherein:
the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;
each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event reporting node; and
the method further comprises transmitting a second message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence detection.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a first computer system, the method comprising:

receiving at the first computer system via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that transferred via the network the digital work from a second computer system to a third computer system, the first report comprising a transaction identifier, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the third computer system;

receiving at the first computer system via the network a second report that originated from a fourth computer system in response to supplying by the fourth computer system information for validating the request, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

comparing at the first computer system the value and the transaction identifier; and
transmitting from the first computer system onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier, transmitting being in response to comparing.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A memory device comprising indicia of the method of claim 9.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A memory device comprising indicia of the method of claim 12.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A memory device comprising indicia of the method of claim 17.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

receiving at the reconciling node via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the content requesting node;

receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated from a content managing node in response to supplying by the content managing node information to validate the request, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and

transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier[[;]], wherein:

transmitting is in response to comparing;

the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node; and

receiving the first report comprises receiving via the network a plurality of records and determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

receiving via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report;

transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison;

receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely received[[:]], wherein:

the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes; each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event reporting node; and

the method further comprises transmitting a second message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence detection.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

receiving via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report;

transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison[[:]];

receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not originated in a predetermined sequence, wherein:

the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event reporting node; and

the method further comprises transmitting a second message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence detection.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein receiving the first report comprises:

receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A reconciling node, for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

means for receiving via a provided network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the content requesting node;

means for receiving via the network a second report that originated from a content managing node in response to supplying by the content managing node information to validate the request, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

means for comparing the value and the transaction identifier; and

means for transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier, transmitting being responsive to the means for comparing.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 26 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 26 wherein receiving the first report comprises:

receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

means for receiving via a provided network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the content requesting node;

means for receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node in response to supplying by the content managing

node information to validate the request, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

means for identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

means for comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report; and

means for transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 29 wherein each tracking value comprises an address of the content requesting node.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 29 further comprising:

means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely received.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 29 further comprising:

means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not originated in a predetermined sequence.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 32 wherein:

the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event reporting node; and

the reconciling node further comprises means for transmitting a second message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence detection.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

means for receiving at the first computer system via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that transferred via the network the digital work from a second computer system to a third computer system, the first report comprising a transaction identifier, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the third computer system;

means for receiving at the first computer system via the network a second report that originated from a fourth computer system in response to supplying by the fourth computer system information to validate the request, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

means for comparing at the first computer system the value and the transaction identifier; and

means for transmitting from the first computer system onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 34 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The reconciling node of claim 34 wherein the means for receiving the first report comprises:

means for receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

means for determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

means for receiving via a provided network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier, the transaction conducted in response to a request originated by the content requesting node;

means for receiving via the network a second report that originated from a content managing node in response to supplying by the content managing node information to validate the request, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

means for comparing the value and the transaction identifier; and

means for transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier[[:]], wherein:

(1) the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node; and

(2) the means for receiving the first report comprises means for receiving via the network a plurality of records and determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

means for receiving via a provided network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

means for receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

means for identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

means for comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report;

means for transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison;

means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely received[[;]], wherein:

(1) the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

(2) each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event reporting node; and

(3) the reconciling node further comprises means for transmitting a second message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence detection.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

means for receiving via a provided network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

means for receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

means for identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

means for comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report;

means for transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison[[:]];

means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not originated in a predetermined sequence, wherein:

(1) the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

(2) each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event reporting node; and

(3) the reconciling node further comprises means for transmitting a second message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence detection.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method for assuring security in a content delivery system, the method comprising:

determining absence from a first report of indicia of a particular permit indicated by a second report, wherein:

(1) the first report comprises indicia of a plurality of permits, the first report being prepared in response to a plurality of first requests, each first request being for a respective permit of the plurality of permits; and

(2) the second report comprises indicia of a second request for a digital work; and determining that a security violation has occurred in response to determining absence of the indicia of the particular permit.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 40 being performed by a reconciling node.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 41 wherein the reconciling node receives the first report from a content providing node.

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Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 42 wherein the reconciling node receives the second report as a consequence of delivery by the system of the digital work.
